



MARION COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

TERRY R. CURRY, PROSECUTOR

251 E. OHIO ST., SUITE 160

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204

PHONE (317) 327-3522 • FAX (317) 327-3531

**Media Release:**

September 9, 2015

**Contact:**

Peg McLeish (317) 327-5543; [peg.mcleish@indy.gov](mailto:peg.mcleish@indy.gov)

A.J. Deer (317) 327-5493; [anthony.deer@indy.gov](mailto:anthony.deer@indy.gov)

**Murder and rape charges filed in 1998 cold case**

*Johnny Jones charged with the murder of Kenya Edwards*

(Indianapolis, Ind.) – Marion County Prosecutor Terry Curry announced today that Johnny Jones has been charged in the 1998 death of Kenya Edwards. Jones has been charged with Murder, Burglary Resulting in Bodily Injury (Class A Felony) and Rape (Class A Felony) for the November 5, 1998, incident. Jones was recently identified as a suspect in the murder by DNA match.

"Through the use of a national DNA database, cold case detectives were able to identify Johnny Jones as a suspect years after this murder was committed," said Prosecutor Curry. "This case is an example of the IMPD cold case unit's tireless efforts to continue seeking justice for the families of murder victims."

"The resiliency and dedication displayed by the investigators involved in this case lets our community know we will leave no stone unturned in any homicide investigation and it will only be considered closed when the person, or persons, involved have been identified, arrested and found guilty in a court of law," said IMPD Chief Rick Hite. "This is our duty and commitment not only to our community, but also the families of those impacted by these senseless crimes."

According to the probable cause affidavit, in November 1998, detectives discovered Edwards' partially burned body in a residence in the 3800 block of N. Tacoma Ave. In May 2009, cold case specialists reviewed the case and submitted for DNA testing evidence collected during the autopsy of Kenya Edwards. In February 2015, cold case detectives were notified of a DNA match of that evidence to DNA submitted to a national database, identifying Johnny Jones as a suspect. Detectives then analyzed previous crimes committed by Johnny Jones and revealed multiple commonalities in two incidents and the 1998 murder of Edwards.

Jones is currently being held in the Indiana Department of Correction for an unrelated 2014 conviction of Unlawful Possession of a Firearm by a Serious Violent Felon.

An initial hearing is scheduled for September 14 at 9 a.m. in criminal court 2.

*A charge of a crime is merely an accusation, and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.*